more ſoft than woman is then ſought for; till, in Italy and Portugal, men attend the levees of equivocal beings, to ſigh for more than female languor.

To ſatisfy this genus of men, women are made ſyſtematically voluptuous, and though they may not all carry their libertiniſm to the ſame height, yet this heartleſs intercourſe with the ſex, which they allow themſelves, depraves both ſexes, becauſe the taſte of men is vitiated; and women, of all claſſes, naturally ſquare their behaviour to gratify the taſte by which they obtain pleaſure and power. Women becoming, conſequently, weaker, in mind and body, than they ought to be, were one of the grand ends of their being taken into the account, that of bearing and nurſing children, have not ſufficient ſtrength to diſcharge the firſt duty of a mother; and ſacrificing to laſciviouſneſs the parental affection, that ennobles inſtinct, either deſtroy the embryo in the womb, or caſt it off when born. Nature in every thing demands reſpect, and thoſe who violate her laws ſeldom violate them with impunity. The weak enervated women who particularly catch the attention of libertines, are unfit to be mothers,

thers, though they may conceive; ſo that the rich ſenſualiſt, who has rioted among women, ſpreading depravity and miſery, when he wiſhes to perpetuate his name, receives from his wife only an half-formed being that inherits both its father's and mother's weakneſs.

Contraſting the humanity of the preſent age with the barbariſm of antiquity, great ſtreſs has been laid on the ſavage cuſtom of expoſing the children whom their parents could not maintain; whilſt the man of ſenſibility, who thus, perhaps, complains, by his promiſcuous amours produces a moſt deſtructive barrenneſs and contagious flagitiouſneſs of manners. Surely nature never intended that women, by ſatisfying an appetite, ſhould fruſtrate the very purpoſe for which it was implanted?

I have before obſerved, that men ought to maintain the women whom they have ſeduced; this would be one means of reforming female manners, and ſtopping an abuſe that has an equally fatal effect on population and morals. Another, no leſs obvious, would be to turn the attention of woman to the real virtue of chaſtity; for to little reſpect has that woman a claim,